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## Denali Training Fund Final Report

Funds for this project are provided by the USDOL and the Denali Commission and managed, in partnership, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Name of Organization: Alaska	
Contact Person: Mike Andrews Email Address: mike.andrews@alaskaworks.org	
Award Year: FY 2010	Award Number: 9-303
Original Amount Awarded: \$90,000 Final Expenditures: \$90,000	
Certification: I certify that the information in this report is current, correct and true and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.	
Signed by: <input type="text"/>	Dated 7/28/10

1. A. In a few sentences, please describe the initial scope of your project.

AWP will provide five (5) construction-training academies for forty-two (42) rural youth aged 18-24 for basic employment as welder helpers in entry level jobs associated with pipeline construction. These training events will serve four (4) regions of rural Alaska, Delta, St. Mary's, Western and Southwestern Alaska.

B. Did you modify the scope or the budget at any time during this project? If so, please explain thoroughly.

A request to expand the scope of this grant was approved to include general construction and residential weatherization. The regions of service were expanded to include Kodiak Island.

2. A. How many people did your original proposal intend to train?

This grant was intended to provide training support for forty-two (42) rural youth individuals.

B. How many people did you ultimately train? Please attach a final list of participants, their community, certification and where they are employed.

A total of sixty (60) individuals received training through this grant. A total of seventy (70) certificates of completion were awarded. An Excel document will accompany this document with specific details. Generally, AWP staff coordinate with local Housing authorities to provide employment for trained participants. Employment availability is one factor that is considered in the process of planning trainings.

C. If there is a variance between original and final, please explain. AWP Staff was often able to train Additional local participants when costs such as travel and housing were negligible.

3. Please tell us about lesson(s) learned during this project.



We have learned that coordinating with Regional Housing Authorities develops a strong network of support for quick ramp-up of associated home weatherization training and helps build a rural Alaska training system to meet the challenge of the State's Home Energy Rebate and Residential Weatherization Program. Having an established high performing training system for construction in place has been essential to ramping up weatherization and for providing hundreds of new jobs for rural workers in construction occupations. AWP also learned there is an increasing interest among young rural Alaskans for information and services related to applying for and entering federally registered apprenticeship training.

4. Please provide a minimum of one success story for this project.

Brandon Rukovishnikoff of St. Paul Island has been able to take advantage of AWP's trainings and the Apprenticeship Outreach programs. Most recently, Brandon participated in an Introduction to weatherization class in Sitka sponsored through this grant. See attached a one page write-up outlining Brandon's successes.

5. How did you acknowledge the Denali Commission for support of this Project?

AWP acknowledges the Denali Commission's contributions as a training partner when ever possible. The Denali Commission logo is featured on all training certificates issued by AWP. The Denali Commission is identified as a major contributing partner on most fliers and advertisements associated with this grant. Denali Commission's is recognized AWP news letters and in the it's annual program year report.

6. Please attach a few photos with descriptive captions.

See attached three pictures:

Sitwx3.jpg

Instructor William Andrew works with a trainee in the "Attic Weatherization" segment of the Wx Tech I training.

Sitwx6.jpg

Participants in the Wx Tech I training learn techniques of attic weatherization.

Sitwx7.jpg

Trainees work with Instructor Wade Stark to review Blower Door Set-up and operation as a part of the Wx Tech I training event.



# Success

## Rural Job Training Apprenticeship Outreach Weatherization

### Brandon Rukovichnikoff: Continuing a Legacy

Brandon Rukovichnikoff, of St. Paul, felt a deep sense of satisfaction when as a youngster he helped his grandfather build a shed. Both of his grandfathers liked to build things and Brandon feels that carpentry runs in his blood. Now, at age 18, he is already on his way to becoming a journeyman. He was recently accepted into the Southern Alaska Carpenters apprenticeship program and will start class in April 2010.

Beginning in eighth grade, Brandon began taking courses that would sharpen his construction skills. During his senior year at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, he met Mike Tucker and William Andrew, instructors for Alaska Works Partnership, who were offering a Weatherization Tech I class shortly after graduation.

"All I knew is that it would add some experience under my belt," Brandon said. "The training taught me a lot. I now see this as something serious that needs to be done in Alaska."

Brandon returned home to St. Paul and went to work for the Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA). It wasn't long before he got a call from Mike Tucker, who invited him to attend pre-apprenticeship training at the Southern Alaska Carpenters in Anchorage. "I knew I'd be bettering myself by going to training," he said.

While he was in training, his grandmother passed away and he went back home to St. Paul. It was a difficult time and he decided he wasn't quite ready for the city life of Anchorage. He went back to work for AHA. Then one day, Dan Rednall, job developer for AWP called him and told him about a construction job to help build Eklutna Estates Community Center in Anchorage. Brandon said he'd think about it.

The next day Rednall called again. "Are you on a plane yet?" he asked.

"No," Brandon said. They talked and several hours later, Brandon boarded a flight for Anchorage. He started working the next day.

"It's just awesome. Mike Tucker and Dan Rednall, they've taken care of me," Brandon said. "I mean, they'll call you during off hours just to make sure you're doing okay."

Working for Koht'aene /Cornerstone JV on the Eklutna Estates project gave Brandon the understanding and know-how to work a fast-paced commercial construction project (civil construction, concrete form building, roofing and steel stud framing). Those skills, the weatherization and the carpenter pre-apprenticeship training make him a valuable crew member for Aleutian Housing Authority. He is currently working a job in the village of Atka to help replace boilers.

"When I got out of high school and started my life, I had to take that huge step of taking the opportunity to better myself," Brandon said. At a young age he's already shown that he has what it takes to succeed. Certainly his grandfathers would be proud as he continues their legacy in the craft of carpentry.



For more information  
about Alaska Works  
Partnership visit:  
[www.alaskaworks.org](http://www.alaskaworks.org)